

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6231

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: AGENDA FOR DECEMBER DPC MINISTERIAL

REF: A. USNATO 6072

B. STATE 244206

C. USNATO 4182

BEGIN SUMMARY: ON NOVEMBER 7, DRC DISCUSSED DRAFT AGENDA FOR DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING. US REP MADE POINTS IN REF B. DRC TOOK NO FINAL DECISION ON DPC AGENDA, BUT WILL DISCUSS IT AGAIN AT ONE OF ITS MEETINGS DURING WEEK OF NOVEMBER 11. END SUMMARY.

1. UNDER ANY OTHER BUSINESS PORTION OF NOVEMBER 7 DRC MEETING, CHAIRMAN HUMPHREYS ASKED FOR NATIONAL VIEWS ON DRAFT DPC MINISTERIAL AGENDA (REF A).

2. US REP (BGEN BOWMAN), DRAWING ON REF B, SAID US FAVORS A RESTRICTED SESSION AND REPORT BY EUROGROUP CHAIRMAN; US SEES NO NEED FOR DPC AGENDA ITEM ON NUCLEAR POLICY; AND BELIEVES AN INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING MAY BE USEFUL. US REP THEN SUGGESTED AGENDA CHRONOLOGY IN PARA 2 OF REF B. REGARDING CONFIDENTIAL

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RESTRICTED SESSION, US REP SAID MINISTERS SHOULD BE ABLE TO SPEAK ON ANY TOPICS THEY DESIRE; WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE ADVANCE INDICATION OF TOPICS OTHER MINISTERS PLAN TO RAISE AND WE HOPE TO PROVIDE SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S TOPICS LATER

IN NOVEMBER.

3. NORWEGIAN REP (LEINE) SAID HE CONSTRUED US REMARKS TO MEAN THAT DPC WILL NOT DISCUSS NUCLEAR POLICY, BUT THIS TOPIC MAY BE HANDLED IN A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NUCLEAR DEFENSE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OR THE NPG. US REP CONCURRED.

4. NETHERLANDS REP (CARSTEN) SAID HIS AUTHORITIES HAD NO PROBLEM WITH DRAFT AGENDA AND THAT CHARACTER OF TOPICS SHOULD GOVERN WHETHER THERE NEED BE A RESTRICTED SESSION. HE ADDED RESTRICTED SESSIONS MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR STAFFS TO FOLLOW THE PROCEEDINGS AND, AS IS MAINTAINS NO VERBATIM RECORDS, THERE ARE OFTEN DIFFICULTIES IN DETERMINING AND AGREEING ON FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS RESULTING FROM RESTRICTED SESSIONS. AS US VIEW OF MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE PLACES EMPHASIS ON INCREASED EFFECTIVENESS THROUGH COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS, NETHERLANDS REP QUESTIONED LOGIC OF SHIFTING MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE BEFORE STATUS REPORTS ON RATIONALIZATION/SPECIALIZATION, STANDARDIZATION, ETC.; HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR MINISTERS TO HEAR THE STATUS OF THESE COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS PRIOR TO DISCUSSING MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE.

5. CHAIRMAN SAID DRC COULD BETTER JUDGE WHERE TO PLACE MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE ON DPC AGENDA ONCE IT KNOWS US VIEWS ON WHETHER MINISTERS SHOULD DISCUSS COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS AS SEPARATE STATUS REPORTS, UNDER MINISTERIAL GUIDANCE, OR UNDER BOTH (SEPTEL). CHAIRMAN ADDED HE SAW MERIT IN HOLDING RESTRICTED SESSION ON SECOND DAY SINCE THIS WOULD GIVE MINISTERS THE BENEFIT OF INFORMAL BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS PRIOR TO RESTRICTED SESSION. CHAIRMAN ALSO STRESSED HIS DESIRE TO EXCLUDE UNNECESSARY ITEMS, SUCH AS BRIEFINGS, FROM THE AGENDA TO ALLOW NEEDED TIME FOR QUOTE REAL BUSINESS. END QUOTE.

6. CANADIAN (SHEFFIELD) AND UK (MACDONALD) REPS OPPOSED AN INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING.

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7. MC REP (GEN VON ZUR GATHEN) SAID IMS WOULD BE HAPPY TO GIVE AN INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING, BUT NEEDED ADVANCE WARNING TO PREPARE THE BRIEFING. US REP SAID WASHINGTON BELIEVES INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING WOULD SERVE AS A USEFUL BACKGROUND TO MINISTERIAL DISCUSSION, BUT US IS WILLING TO GO ALONG WITH THE MAJORITY.

8. UK REP NOTED THAT US-PROPOSED REVISIONS TO DRAFT AGENDA WERE MAJOR AND HAVE QUOTE RECAST END QUOTE THE AGENDA. CHAIRMAN THEN SUGGESTED THAT DRC RETURN TO DISCUSSION OF THE AGENDA AT ONE OF ITS MEETINGS DURING WEEK OF NOVEMBER 11. CHAIRMAN STATED THAT WHILE QUOTE EVERYONE END QUOTE HAS AGREED TO BLOCK OUT DATES OF DECEMBER 10 AND 11 FOR DPC

MINISTERIAL, DPC STILL HAS NOT FORMALLY AGREED TO TWO-DAY MEETING. COMMENT: SUBJECT OF DPC DURATION WAS LAST DISCUSSED AT JULY 31 NAC (USNATO 4182); US REP, UNDER INSTRUCTION, AGREED TO JOIN CONSENSUS ON TWO-DAY MEETING. SUBSEQUENTLY, DPC HAS NOT DISCUSSED SUBJECT. WE ASSUME IF DPC ADDRESSES SUBJECT, APPROVAL BY PERM REPS WILL BE PRO FORMA. END COMMENT.

9. CHAIRMAN ALSO ALLUDED TO DPC MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE AND REQUESTED THAT NATIONS WITH STRONG VIEWS FORWARD SUGGESTED COMMUNIQUE IDEAS/LANGUAGE TO IS, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
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